



NOAALink 101 Pre-Award Training Q&A Responses



*Service. Partnership. Commitment.
Where Business and IT Connect.*

March 14, 2012

1. **Question**

When indicating the estimated funding on the NLK Worksheet, should the 3% NOAALink fee be included in the estimated figure?

Answer

No, the NOAALink fee should not be included in the estimated funding.

2. **Question**

Can you define the acronyms SMS and CORE?

Answer

SMS – Strategic Management Services

CORE – The group of NOAALink contractors that deliver all IT requests not classified as SMS. This group includes 5 8(a) contractors and 5 Small Business contractors.

3.

a. **Question**

Should CDO (Cathy Ossi) always be selected as the recommended COR in C.Request?

Answer

Yes, CDO should always be selected because at the time of your request it is uncertain whether or not your requirement will be procured through 8(a), Small Business, or a non-NOAALink contractor.

b. **Question**

Should IT Security and 508 compliance documents be signed by Cathy Ossi?

Answer

No the Task Manager may sign these documents in place of the COR.

4.

a. **Question**

Why doesn't NOAALink negotiate a BPA or have an ordering schedule for standard IT equipment and software?

Answer

If a requirement is not suitable for NOAALink contractors, we do have the full range of alternative contract vehicles that can be employed.

b. **Question**

Do laptops and desktops need to be procured through NOAALink?

Answer

Desktops and laptops can be procured through DOC's PC and Accessories Acquisition Portal. The portal will work similar to Amazon, in which selections are made and placed in a cart. Purchases will be made through Purchase Card Orders. The portal should be available in approximately 1 week.

5. Question

Is there a vehicle similar to the PC and Accessories Acquisition Portal that can be used to purchase Microsoft and other types of software?

Answer

Currently you may purchase Microsoft software through a BPA negotiated by the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). Do this by specifying that you would like to place an order against the Microsoft BPA on your requisition.

The NOAALink Program office is working to put other software agreements in place such as:

- Red Hat
- ESRI
- Adobe

6. Question

Can direct quotes be requested for HW and SW requirements that have very specific components?

Answer

No, if you are unable to make estimations based off of publicly available information, use historical data. Obtaining direct quotes from contracts can lead to:

- The request being registered with the manufacturer, this means that initiation of the requirement will no longer be a competitive process. Fair opportunity cannot be given to all of the firms in this scenario, because one firm will have an advantage, compromising the ability of other firms to be competitive.
- The contractor may not be appropriate according to the socioeconomic goals of the Department or the contract types designed by the PAR.
- Higher overall cost to the end user.

You must refer to public sources for cost estimates. Refer to AGO's guidance on conducting Market Research at <http://www.easc.noaa.gov/APG/Planning/Planning-1-3-0.htm>. If you find that this information does not provide you with strategies appropriate to your specific acquisition, you may contact Linda Brainard directly for further assistance, Linda.d.brainard@noaa.gov.

7. Question

How can I print the slides from today's presentation?

Answer

Slides from the presentation are attached to the follow-up email. You may also access the slides on the NOAALink website by visiting the Customer page and clicking Training. http://www.cio.noaa.gov/NOAALink/noaalink_training.html.